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## Croatia

### Agricultural Situation

#### Two Ministries for Agricultural Issues

**Bozidar Pankretic appointed Minister of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development**

**Petar Cobankovic appointed Minister of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management**

## 2008

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**Report Highlights:**

On January 14, 2008, Mr. Bozidar Pankretic was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development, replacing Minister Petar Cobankovic who took the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management. The Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management is the new Ministry under the new Government. This new Ministry incorporates two sectors (forestry and water management) that were in the portfolio of the agricultural Ministry under the "old" Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management). Thus under this Government, agricultural topics will be covered out of two Ministries. The following report includes a brief biography of Bozidar Pankretic and Petar Cobankovic.

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After November elections Croatia had a long wait before the coalition Government was formed. Finally on January 14, 2008, Mr. Bozidar Pankretic was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development, replacing Minister Petar Cobankovic who took the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management. The Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management is the new Ministry under the new Government. This new Ministry incorporates two sectors (forestry and water management) that were in the portfolio of the agricultural Ministry under the "old" Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management). Thus under this Government agricultural topics will be covered out of two Ministries.

**Bozidar Pankretic biography:**

Minister of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development, Bozidar Pankretic was born on November 9, 1964 in the town of Vrbovec. He completed elementary and high school there. He earned his B.Sc. and Masters Degree in agriculture from Agricultural College Zagreb. He is married and has two daughters. This is the second time that Mr. Pankretic is posted as a Minister of Agriculture.

From 1988 to 1996 Mr. Pankretic was working as a Deputy Purchase Manager in meat processing factory PIK Vrbovec. After he left that position Mr. Pankretic spent all of his professional life in politics. This lead him to be elected in 1996 for Deputy Prefect of the Zagreb County, in 1997 for the member of the Croatian Parliament where he was also a Vice-President of the House of Counties and finally in January 2000 for the Minister of Agriculture. After he finished serving as a Minister Pankretic stayed in the Croatian Parliament as a member and a President of the Parliament's Board for Agriculture and Forestry.

He started his political career in 1992 as a member of (HSS) the Croatian Peasant Party where he during the years held following positions: a member of the party's presidency, member of the Head Comity, Vice-President, and President of the HSS Zagreb County branch. He was also one of the initiators for forming of the Croatian Peasant's Alliance (Hrvatski seljacki savez).

**Petar Cobankovic biography:**

Minister of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, Petar Cobankovic was born on January 29, 1957 to an old winegrower family in Croatia's easternmost town of Ilok. He completed elementary and high school there. He earned his B.Sc. in agriculture from Agricultural College Zagreb and has specialized in wine business. He is married to Anica Cobankovic and they have four sons and one daughter. His hobbies are chess, sports and reading. According to his official biography he speaks German passively (no English).

Mr. Cobankovic spent most of his professional life in the Vukovar based agriculture conglomerate, Vupik. He started working there as the chief wine expert in 1983 and was promoted to Director of vinery subsidiary in 1989. During 1997-1998 he was Director of wine cellar Ilok, part of Vupik Vukovar. From 2003 – 2008 he was a Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

He started his political career in 1990 as a member of (HKDS) Croatian Christian Democratic Party and he was elected as a member of the Executive Council of Vukovar Municipality. One year later he joined (HDZ) Croatian Democratic Union and was a Croatian defense leader of Ilok in Homelad war. During 1992-1993 he was assistant to the Government of Croatia's commissioner for Vukovar Municipality in charge of relations with UNPROFOR and other international organizations. From 1993-2001 he was a member of the HDZ County Committee. He was a Deputy Mayor of Ilok in exile from 1993 until 1997. From 1996-1997

Cobankovic actively participated in peaceful reintegration as a member of executive committee for agriculture. He was parliamentary representative in the House of Counties, 1997-2000 and the County Prefect of Vukovarsko-Srijemska County, 2000-2001. In 2002 he was the President of the County Committee of the HDZ Vukovarsko-Srijemska County and in 2003 he become a member of the party's presidency